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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0309

October 25, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

We write concerning a recent proposal by the National Park Service (NPS) to significantly increase entrance fees at 17 national parks.

As you know, the mission of the NPS is to conserve and protect public parks for the enjoyment of future generations. NPS receives federal funding through the appropriations process and also assesses entrance fees to supplement its funding. Despite this, NPS faces a significant maintenance backlog and a growing need to update infrastructure and improve services and accessibility for visitors.

We are concerned that a steep increase in fees would make it more difficult for Americans to access and enjoy the public lands that have been rightfully ours for generations. For example, the NPS proposal more than doubles weekly vehicle entrance fees at the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone, and Zion from \$30 to \$70.

Our national parks also support jobs in nearby communities, where a good job is often tough to come by. Large fee increases in our national parks will discourage the tourism that benefits these communities. We should be doing everything we can to ensure rural communities have opportunities to succeed.

We agree that NPS deserves the funding it needs to address maintenance needs and ensure future generations can enjoy our national parks, but a proposal that more than doubles fees to access our parks isn't the answer. We look forward to working with you to find thoughtful solutions that provide adequate funding for our national parks while ensuring these treasured places remain accessible for all Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Mia Love
Member of Congress